

**ABSTRACT**

Apparatus, and an associated method, for estimating the channel phase of a communication channel upon which data is communicated. When implemented in an IS-95 cellular communication system in which 1xEV-DO technology is deployed, the

5 channel phase estimate provided by an estimator is based upon both a pilot signal and a MAC-data signal. MAC-data bits are removed out of the MAC-data signal by a MAC bit processor, and the resultant indications are combined with indications of a pilot signal to form the channel phase estimate.